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ABSTRACT

This document reports demographic information about mentors, the faculty of Empire State College (ESC), a new, nontraditional college without a campus of the State University of New York. Results show ESC mentors statistically like any faculty, though perhaps more oriented to private education than most state college faculties and more varied in background experiences. (Author/MJM)

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RESEARCH REPORTS AND TOPICAL PAPERS

EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE
SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. 12866

EDITOR'S NOTE: This report was prepared by A. Paul Bradley Jr. assisted by Judith Adamson, Office of Research and Evaluation.

ABOUT EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE MENTORS

There is considerable interest in the faculty, known as mentors, at Empire State College: who are they, what do they do, how, why? An upcoming monograph based on interviews and participant observation will deal with these questions in intensive fashion. In prelude, this issue of Research and Review reports some demographic statistics on the sixty-two full-time mentors and deans affiliated with the Genesee Valley, Long Island, Metropolitan, and Northeast Regional Centers on May 1, 1973.

Empire State College mentors average 40.6 years with a range of 24 to 69 (Table 1). Ten are in their 20's, twenty-six are in their 30's, ten in the 40's, fifteen in the 50's, and one in the 60's. Long Island has seven mentors under 35 and the Northeast has six while the Metropolitan Center has seven over 50. The Genesee Valley Center has a balanced age mix. Forty-three (69%) mentors and deans are men and nineteen (31%) are women, a ratio that is fairly consistent across the Centers. Though most mentors were born in the northeastern United States, many have traveled extensively in this country and Europe. Also, a few have traveled to and lived in South America, Africa, and Asia. Thirty-five mentors (57%) and center deans hold terminal degrees, many from prestigious institutions (Table 2). Seventeen (27%) more are candidates for terminal degrees, nine at Long Island.

A noteworthy point about the graduate backgrounds of the mentors is the large number who attended private and independent institutions. Only fourteen (23%) went to public graduate schools. In addition, thirty-seven (60%) attended private and independent undergraduate colleges. Overall, fifty-one (82%) attended a private or independent institution at some stage of their higher learning. For a state college faculty, this is a high percentage indeed.

The mentors as a group are experienced faculty members. Thirty-one (55%) of those whose years of teaching are clearly discernable have at least five years of college teaching (Table 3). At Empire State, they are required to perform a variety of untraditional faculty tasks which prompts the notion that all are generalists, but other evidence also exists. The group has published 22 books, 3 monographs, over 120 articles, 85 papers, 55 reviews, 6 essays, and even a few films. In all, fifty

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Table 1

Selected ESC Mentor Characteristics
April 1, 1973

	MLC	GVLC	NELC	LI	TOTAL
Age					
*Number of People**	15	15	15	17	62
Range	29-69	29-59	29-54	24-59	24-69
Average	44.5	39.6	37.0	41.2	40.6
Sex					
Male	10(67%)	11(73%)	11(73%)	11(65%)	43(69%)
Female	5(33%)	4(27%)	4(27%)	6(35%)	19(31%)
No. Books Published	9	5	-	8	22
Degrees					
Doctorate	9(60%)	9(60%)	9(60%)	6(35%)	33(53%)
Masters	5(33%)	6(40%)	6(40%)	10(59%)	27(44%)
Bachelors	1(7%)	0	0	1(5%)	2(3%)

*Includes Learning Center Deans

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June 19, 1973

Table 2

Mentors and Deans:
Holders of and Candidates for Terminal Degrees
Empire State College
May 1, 1973

Holders of Terminal Degrees

Institution	Number
Columbia University	7
Harvard University	4
University of Chicago	4
New York University	4
Syracuse University	3
Yale University	2
University of Buffalo	1
State University of New York at Buffalo	1
Yeshiva University	1
University of Paris	1
Duquesne University	1
University of Minnesota	1
Laval University	1
Cornell University	1
Vanderbilt University	1
Tulane University	1
State University of New York at Albany	1

Candidates for Terminal Degrees

University of Chicago	3
State University of New York at Buffalo	2
Columbia University	2
New York University	2
State University of New York at Albany	1
Clark University	1
University of California	1
University of Washington	1
University of Paris	1
Northwestern University	1
Brown University	1
Bernard Baruch University	1
New School of Social Research	1

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Table 3

Mentors' Years of Previous College and University Teaching
Empire State College
May 1, 1973

Years of Teaching	Number of Mentors	(%)
0	3	(5)
1	3	(5)
2	5	(8)
3	6	(10)
4	4	(7)
5	4	(7)
6	5	(8)
7	5	(8)
8	6	(10)
9	0	
10	2	(3)
11-15	5	(8)
16-20	5	(8)
21+	3	(5)
Unknown	6	(10)

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June 19, 1973

mentors and center deans (81%) have published. Another aspect of the mentors' particular skills is indicated in a partial list of past non-academic jobs held: president of a local labor union, computer designer, real estate manager, coordinator of a model cities program, systems analyst, printer, director of a settlement house, publisher, marketing executive, medical research librarian, editor. The Metropolitan Center faculty is particularly rich in background experiences.

Overall, on these basic variables, mentors seem much like their faculty colleagues at other institutions. ESC mentors are both young and old, fully credentialed and "ABD," published and unpublished. Perhaps they are a bit more oriented to private and independent educational practices and are a bit more varied in background experiences but the importance of these factors cannot be determined in this type of statistical report. Some other questions raised by this study include: Are these the kind of people who can be most effective in using Empire State College's alternative educational approaches? Does the large number of "typical" faculty characteristics suggest the need for formal orientation programs for mentors? Does the high percentage of "publishers" suggest a discipline-oriented, (as opposed to institution-oriented) faculty? Should ESC recruit more people from public institutions and what would this mean? Future research efforts will examine these and other questions.